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Patterson: Technology and Energy Committee Reported Senate Bill 1

LANSING – The Senate Technology and Energy Committee favorably reported out Senate Bill 1 yesterday, which would require local telephone companies to justify charging consumers the End User Common Line (EUCL) fee, Chairman Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, announced.

“Senate Bill 1 provides consumers with the comfort of knowing that the Michigan Public Service Commission, an independent body, is reviewing their phone rates,” Senator Patterson said. “This legislation will ensure that consumers are protected from an EUCL charge that is unreasonable or illegitimate on their telephone bills.”

Senate Bill 1, sponsored by Senator Gerald Van Woerkom, R-Norton Shores, would establish a process to allow the Public Service Commission to determine if the EUCL fee is a legitimate business expense. Seven of the eight members serving on the Committee of Technology and Energy voted in favor of the bill.

Every phone line in Michigan, residential and business, is currently subject to the EUCL fee.

SB 1 will now be sent to the full Senate for consideration with the committee’s recommendation that it pass.

Note: Audio Comments by Senator Patterson on the Technology and Energy Committee action on SB 1 are available on the Michigan Senate Hotline at (517) 373-4000.